GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:356
ANSWERED ON:19.07.2016
Cultivation of Kharif Crops
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Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the total estimated area under cultivation of Kharif Crops in 2016-17 as compared to that of 2015-16, crop-wise;

(b) whether sown area of most of Kharif Crops witnessed a decline during the current year as compared to that of the previous year and if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor, State/UT-wise;

(c) whether the Government has taken any initiative to create awareness among farmers to turn crop waste into biochar and use it as fertilizers to sustain soil fertility and if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps taken to enhance the production and acreage of Kharif Crops in the country?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE AND FARMERS WELFARE

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(a) & (b): As per latest reports from State Governments, a comparative position of area coverage under kharif crops during the current year i.e. 2016-17(as on 15.07.2016) vis-a-vis the corresponding period of last year i.e. 2015-16 is as under:-
(in Lakh ha.)

Crops	Area Sown 2016-17 (as on 15.7.2016)	Area Sown 2015-16 (as on 15.7.2015)	Increase(+)/decrease(-) in area over the last year
Rice	123.93	122.99	0.94
Coarse Cereals	105.98	101.45	4.53
Pulses	71.07	51.12	19.95
Foodgrains	300.98	275.56	25.42
Oilseeds	130.12	127.13	2.99
Sugarcane	45.78	44.80	0.98
Cotton	75.41	93.22	-17.81
Jute & Mesta	7.47	7.67	-0.20
All-Crops	559.76	548.38	11.38

Note: Area coverage figures are as per eye assessment of State Agriculture Departments
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It is observed that area coverage under most of kharif crops during the current year (as on 15.7.2016) is higher than the area covered during the corresponding period of last year.

(c): Application of biochar is reported to be as soil amendment (not as fertilizer) which may be a potential option to sequester atmospheric carbon into soil besides improving soil quality in terms of improving its physical properties and nutrient availability. Presently, there is no programme to educate farmers regarding production of biochar from crop waste and its use in agriculture. However, the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) is engaged in research on biochar for its agricultural use.

(d): In order to increase acreage and production of agricultural crops in the country, Government of India is implementing through State Governments, several Crop Development Schemes/Programmes such as National Food Security Mission (NFSM), Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY), Bringing Green Revolution to Eastern India (BGREI), National Mission on Oilseeds and Oil Palm (NMOOP), National Mission on Agriculture Extension & Technology (NMAET), National Mission for Sustainable Agriculture (NMSA), Pradhan Mantri Krishi Sinchai Yojana etc.

Under these Schemes/Programmes, funds are provided to States for implementation of State-specific agricultural strategies including

incentives to farmers for use of quality seeds, Integrated Nutrient Management (INM), Integrated Pest Management (IPM), farm mechanization, etc. The States are also provided support for creation of agricultural infrastructure for optimal use of water and other natural resources.

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